GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the main observations and recommendations made at the 55th General Assembly of the WHO held in Geneva in June this year, about the implementation of the National Health Policy of India;

(b) the details of extent to which implementation in respect of different health-meladies enumerated in the policy, fell short of the targets, as taken note of by WHO; and

(c) the Action Plan projected to fulfill these targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.360 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2002

(a) The 55th World Health Assembly held in Geneva in May, 2002, did not make any observations about the implementation of the National Health Policy of India.

(b)&(c) The World Health Assembly discusses health related issues of international importance; it does not generally make observations about a particular country`s health policies.

The World Health Organisation has made certain goals for controlling diseases internationally; for example, to stop transmission of the wild polio virus and certify all World Health Organisation regions polio-free by the end of 2005, global leprosy elimination as a public health problem, global elimination of lymphatic filariasis by 2020, to detect 70 percent of new infectious TB cases and to cure 85 percent of those detected, reduction of malaria morbidity and mortality by 50 percent by the year 2010, etc.

The National Health Policy 2002 has also set goals to be achieved by the year 2015; for example, to eradicate polio by 2005, to eliminate leprosy by 2005, to eliminate lymphatic filariasis by 2015, to reduce mortality by 50 percent on account of TB, Malaria and other vector and water borne diseases. As the time frame given in the National Health Policy 2002 is from 2005 to 2015 for control of various diseases, the question of shortfalls in the targets does not arise at present. As a major policy suggestion, the National Health Policy 2002 has suggested to increase public investment in health. In particular, it has been suggested to increase health expenditure by government as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from existing 0.9 percent to 2.0 percent by 2010 and to increase State Sector Health spending from 5.5. percent to 8 percent of the budget by 2010.